

play a critical role in the education of the American people, as well as the U.S. Congress, as to how America's emergency food networks responded to these natural disasters. Copies of the report can be found on America's Second Harvest website (www.secondharvest.org).

**CONDEMNING ACTIONS BY SYRIA
REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION
OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF
LEBANON**

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. ISSA and Mr. LANTOS for joining me in introducing this critical resolution, which condemns Syrian efforts to hinder the investigation into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri, expresses support for extending the mandate of the investigative commission, and supports punitive sanctions against Syria if it continues to fail to comply with the ongoing investigation.

On February 14, 2005, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated in a vicious terrorist attack in Beirut, Lebanon that killed 22 and injured more than 100. In response, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 1595, establishing an international commission to investigate this attack and demanding the full compliance of all U.N. member states with the investigation.

This commission—led by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis—released its initial findings in a report that implicated senior Syrian officials in the Hariri assassination. This past week, a second report was released that exposed Syrian efforts to impede and obstruct the investigation, including misleading the commission, providing falsified accounts and threatening those involved in the investigation. At this juncture, we must hold the Syrian regime accountable for their actions and demand Syrian compliance with the ongoing investigation.

Since the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri, targeted assassinations aimed at intimidating Lebanese opponents of Syria have continued unabated. Just this past week, a prominent and well-respected journalist was killed in a car-bombing in Beirut. Make no mistake; this was a clear attempt to limit freedom of the press in Lebanon on the part of the Syrian regime.

This resolution does just that. It supports the findings of the Mehlis report, condemns the Syrian Government for its apparent involvement in the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri and others, and demands Syrian compliance. It also supports U.S.-led efforts to hold Syria accountable for its role in the Hariri assassination under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which leaves the door open for sanctions.

As the U.N. considers the grave and far-reaching implications of the Mehlis report, I strongly support critical and timely resolution.

HONORING FLORIDA STATE
SENATOR PAULA DOCKERY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow public servant and dear friend, whose dedication and hard work has earned the admiration of not only the people of Florida, but public officials nationally as well. This is why I am proud to congratulate Florida State Senator Paula Dockery for her well-earned selection as Governing Magazine's 2005 "Public Official of the Year."

Senator Dockery was one of only eight public officials from across the country, and the only Florida official, to be so honored. She was recognized by Governing Magazine "in honor of her success in bringing diverse groups together to craft a sound and far-reaching water policy for the State of Florida." The magazine also stated "Since being elected to the House in 1996 and subsequently to the Senate, Dockery has demonstrated the ability to build consensus among groups with a history of contention." Senator Dockery has also recently been awarded "Legislator of the Year" by the American Water Works Association for her "outstanding leadership and dedication in developing water supply legislation for the people of Florida." Additionally, the Florida Ocean Alliance presented the Senator with an award of appreciation for sponsoring legislation that established the Florida Ocean and Coastal Resource Council noting her "leadership in sponsoring legislation to further conservation and management of ocean and coastal resources."

Yet, this is only a small portion of Senator Dockery's long history of bringing together disparate interests to craft sound environmental policy. As a defender of private property rights and protecting Florida's environmental resources, she constantly recognizes the importance of sound conservation principles in a rapidly growing State.

I had the opportunity to serve with Senator Dockery in the Florida State House of Representatives for 4 years, and it is her dedication to the common good, passion for legislating, and ability to inspire her colleagues, that has led the way to her success. In 1999, Senator Dockery authored the Florida Forever initiative, providing \$300 million a year to purchase land for preservation. Business interests and environmentalists both praised the program. In addition, she followed this initiative with the goal of developing a water plan for Florida. Spending much of 2003 and 2004 developing legislation to conserve water for Florida's future, Senator Dockery successfully led the passage of SB 444 in 2005, creating comprehensive water legislation that provides \$300 million to help local governments develop water supply through alternative resources.

The constituents of Senate District 15 and the State as a whole are extremely blessed to have her leadership serving them in Tallahassee. As the Senator continues to proudly serve the good people of Florida, I look forward to many more accomplishments as she continues to lead and guide the future of our great State.

IN RECOGNITION OF COMPANY
ALPHA, 2ND BATTALION, 112TH
ARMOR OF DENTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated group of soldiers from Denton, Texas, who have devoted their lives to saving our country and bringing freedom to the people of Iraq—the soldiers of Company Alpha, 2nd Battalion, 112th Armor of Denton.

Denton's Company A is part of the 3,000 members of the 56th Brigade Combat Team of the Texas National Guard's 36th Infantry Division, which recently turned over its command to the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team in Macon, Georgia.

Deployed in August of 2004, the soldiers from Denton trained at Fort Hood, Texas, through December of last year before embarking to Iraq. While in Iraq, they were stationed at Al Taqaddum, or "TQ" Airbase between Fallujah and Ramadi, Iraq.

During the year-long deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 56th Brigade took part in combat missions, humanitarian relief, convoy security and the recovery and destruction of munitions. They were engaged in more than 7,000 combat patrols, escorted convoys over 1.3 million miles and protected more than 150,000 civilian trucks. Most of the operations took place at night, and patrols lasted 12 to 14 hours. The soldiers encountered more than 330 improvised explosive devices while traveling on Iraqi roads, and the patrols were involved in more than 250 small-arms engagements.

These brave soldiers from Denton include: CPT Mark Christopher Grahmann, 1st LT Chester Lee Harbert, 1st SG Charles George Piatt, SFC Kevin Jay Brown, SSG Lonnie Ray Fuller, SGT Ryan Colby Erwin, SSG Michael Samson Bowen, SGT Andrew Culloden Bell, Chris William Coufal, SGT Ashley Brant Acevedo, SGT Shane Benjamin Walter, SPC John Christopher Britton, SPC Scott Alan Dolat, SSG Mark Steven Sims.

**BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT
ENHANCEMENT ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 280, the Brownfields Revitalization Enhancement Act. I want to thank Congressman MILLER from California for his hard work and dedication toward the issue of brownfields redevelopment. I look forward to working with Congressman MILLER in the future on this issue.

Brownfield sites are served by an existing infrastructure and through their remediation, urban sprawl can be reduced. Redeveloping brownfields could create 1.9 billion dollars annually in increased tax revenues for American cities.

H.R. 280 provides grant money to cities and towns to redevelop brownfield sites. This bill also detaches grant availability from section